

Kudos to Finance Facilities Maintenance Staff

It's not often that state government gets unsolicited comments—on the positive side that is—but that's exactly what Carol Smith and Shane McDonald found in their inbox this week. Ronnie Ellis, a reporter who covers state government emailed both Smith and McDonald, saying he ran across their names and wanted to share his thanks for all the hard work of the maintenance staff at the Capitol Annex.

According to Mr. Ellis, "In my job as a reporter, I spend a great deal of time in the annex, covering legislative meetings and talking to lawmakers as well as eating almost daily at the cafeteria. Over time, I've noticed how well maintained and clean the annex is in spite of the enormous use and traffic it receives from the public. So much so, that when I finally thought about it, I was surprised to realize that in several years in my job, I can't ever remember walking into an annex bathroom to find it messy, unclean or with odor. That's amazing and I think the fact that I had to actually force myself to think about it emphasizes just HOW amazing it is. The people who use the annex just take it for granted."

He went on to say that even the meeting rooms in the annex are always clean and well organized—especially during the 2013 session that saw many back-to-back committee meetings all day long. He indicated, "I cannot remember a disheveled room. Chairs are always neatly in place (in spite of reporters casually moving them around to suit their purposes), floors are always clean and I never see empty cups sitting around on tables or the lawmakers' desks."

"Your staff truly does an outstanding job – and I'm sure they are under-appreciated, certainly by the public and no doubt even by lawmakers, the LRC and maybe even by their supervisors. So I wanted to let you know at least one person has noticed and appreciated the work those good people do."

"We have one of the most beautiful Capitol campuses and its beauty is only enhanced by the care it receives from our staff in Facilities. It is much appreciated that Ronnie Ellis took the time to remind us all. Congratulations on a job well done, consistently and courteously," said Secretary Lori Flanery.

Capitol in Bloom

The Capitol Campus is all abloom. Many thanks to the hardworking landscaping staff for keeping the Capitol grounds looking beautiful!

Approximately 15,000 bulbs are planted each year. Once they are finished blooming, they are given to food banks in Kentucky to use as a fund raiser. This year bulbs will be donated to organizations in the Mayfield and Prestonsburg areas.



Department of Revenue Sorts through Thousands of Filed Income Tax Returns

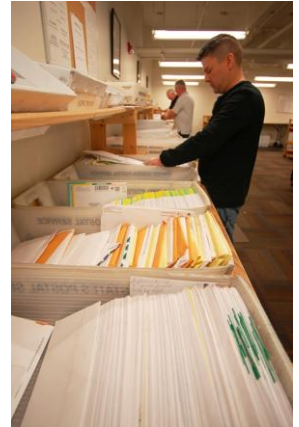
April 15 has come and gone and thousands of Kentucky taxpayers sent in their returns at the deadline. Tax processing season is at full throttle and the “rush” season is here. “One could say this is something along the lines of ordered chaos,”



said Jerry McCarty, director of Revenue's Division of Operations. “DOR is fortunate to have terrific employees who

work tirelessly to ensure returns are opened and processed as quickly as possible. While the work may be repetitious, it is extremely important.”

This year the Division of Operations will process over 1.8 million Individual Income Tax returns of which approximately 80% will be electronically filed. While electronic filing continues to grow in popularity, the Department of Revenue still processes hundreds of thousands of returns. In addition to Individual Income Tax returns the division processes many other tax forms and payments including major tax types such as Corporate Tax, Sales Tax, Withholding Tax and many Miscellaneous Taxes.



Upcoming Earth Day Announcement Highlights Division for Fleet Management's New Electric Vehicles

Monday, April 22 is Earth Day with lots of activities and announcements planned for state government. At 11 a.m. on Monday, Sec. Lori Flanery will join First Lady Jane



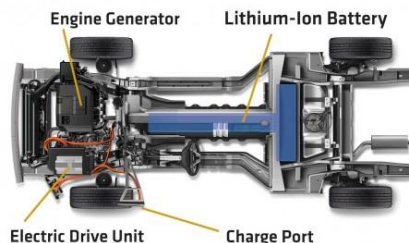
Beshear and Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) Secretary Len Peters in unveiling the state's newest vehicles, Chevy Volts recently purchased by EEC. The Division of Fleet Management has also ordered electric vehicles, which should be on Frankfort streets in mid-June.

“The Finance Cabinet is always looking for ways to reduce the state's carbon footprint,” said Secretary Flanery. “With that in mind, the Division of Fleet Management has ordered two Chevy Volts for postal services to use in and around Frankfort. Short, local trips, where the driver can use the electric engine

exclusively, could realize anywhere from 50 to 100 percent fuel cost savings.”

The Governor's Energy Plan called for a 30 percent improvement in fuel economy of the state vehicle fleet by 2015 and a 50 percent improvement by 2025. The plan also calls for utilizing alternative fuels and technologies like plug-in hybrids, to reduce Kentucky's dependence on foreign petroleum.

Fleet Management will evaluate the Chevy Volts to see how well they perform.



The goal is to continue finding ways to save fuel, reduce emissions and have reliable transportation for state government employees.

New Policy for Handling Planned Overtime

On April 15, the Personnel Cabinet released the new policy for handling of planned overtime as it applies KRS Chapter 18A classified, merit employees who do not serve in supervisory or management positions. Starting May 1, 2013, planned overtime shall be assigned in a manner that provides capable employees the opportunity for overtime based upon seniority. In order to qualify as planned overtime, the need for additional hours of work must be known in advance and the overtime must be of a nature that it can be assigned to a number of individuals. For more information about the Planned Overtime policy, please contact your agency's human resources office.